



ESO, Cheryl Nagy and board members from SBCVOAD Member, Building Resilient Communities recently received recognition at The White House

OES Quarterly Report

San Bernardino County
Fire,
Office of Emergency
Services



County OES Among Those Honored at The White House

Contact: C. Nagy

On January 28, 2015, County Office of Emergency Services (OES) Emergency Services Officer, Cheryl Nagy attended FEMA's National Strategy for Youth Preparedness (National Strategy) recognition event at The White House representing San Bernardino County Fire, OES.

In September 2014 FEMA announced a new strategy to educate young people about disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. The *National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education: Empowering, Educating and Building Resilience* couples its attention on emergency and disaster preparedness with community action that focuses specifically on youth readiness for disasters and related events. The National Strategy was developed in partnership with American Red Cross and the U.S. Department of Education.

Research shows that children under the age of 18 make up nearly a quarter of the U.S. population, and it is imperative to educate and empower them to prepare

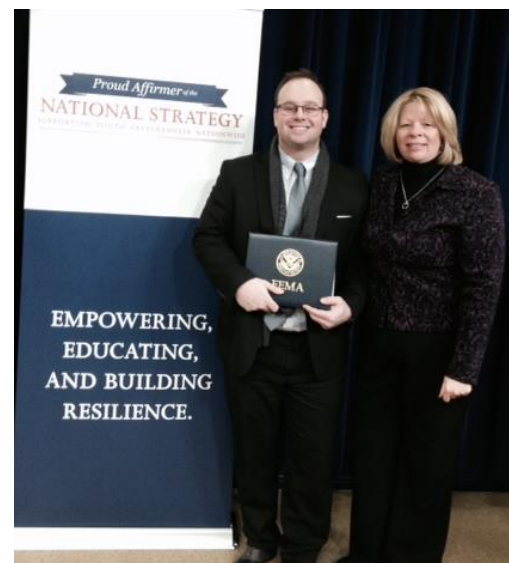
for disasters. Almost 14 percent of the children and teens in the U.S. have experienced a disaster during their lifetime and four percent have been in a disaster within the past year. The most commonly experienced disasters are earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

Children have the ability to play an important role in preparing themselves, their families, and their communities for disasters. Working in partnership with Lake Arrowhead Girl Scout Troop 1186, the Rim Communities COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and Lake Arrowhead CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers have been able to assist in educating the girl scouts and youth of the mountain communities on preparedness and sheltering in place for the shut-in population living within the mountain communities. In other areas of the County, preparedness education is now becoming more important than ever imagined.

SEE THE WHITE HOUSE/P3



Debra Williams - National Strategy Affirmers - Building Resilient Communities and SBCVOAD member, networking at The White House



Kevin Peach, National VOAD Membership Director and ESO, Cheryl Nagy at The White House for recognition ceremony

Preparing for Recovery

Contact: C. Cruz

In the aftermath of the "2014 August Severe Storms" and in conjunction with County OES' on-going disaster cost recovery planning effort; County OES hosted two half-day Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) training sessions.

On Wednesday, January 14, 2015, over 65 representatives from the Cities and Towns, County Departments, Special Districts, and Cal OES attended the IDE training sessions lead by Sean Smith from the Cal OES Recovery Branch. Collecting and evaluating timely and accurate IDE's and conducting initial damage assessments are the first steps necessary to determine if state or federal disaster assistance is warranted. The goal

of the training was to provide the attendees with the tools and knowledge to assist them in recovering the maximum amount in cost recovery assistance funding.

Sean walked the attendees through the process of defining an IDE, the damages and/or costs that are included, the role and importance of the IDE, the IDE collection process by the affected agency/entity, the Cal OES validation process, and the eligibility and differences between Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA).

During the training Sean commented that he shares his experience about the San Bernardino County Operational Area August storms and that our process is a model across the state for IDE collection and evaluation. Once again the County is leading the way and shares these accolades with our local partners. However, County OES continues to refine and improve our processes in

preparation for the next incident. Additional cost recovery training is on the horizon.



Sean Smith, Cal OES, conducting damage assessment site visits after the August Severe Storms, accompanied by City staff.

SBC VOAD Conducts First Meeting of 2015

Contact: C. Nagy

Recently the San Bernardino County (SBC) VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) members conducted their first meeting of 2015. Led by SBCVOAD Chair, Craig Nelson, the VOAD goals were reviewed and each committee chair gave an update of their committee progress. Special guests Ian Whyte of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Captain Mike Russ, San Manuel Fire Department, kept the attendees engaged with two informative and educational presentations.

The 2015 annual election of officers also took place. Congratulations to the SBCVOAD 2015 officers: Chair, Robin Bishop; Vice Chair, Julie Janesin; and Secretary/Treasurer, Karen Miller. A big thank you to Craig Nelson for his past two years of service as the SBCVOAD Chair.

SEE VOAD/P3

FEMA EMI VTTX Program

Contact: R. Lindsay

The FEMA/EMI VTTX is a series of discussion-based Virtual Tabletop Exercises offered monthly by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). OA Training and Exercise Coordinator Robin Lindsay has audited two VTTX programs recently and recommends that Emergency Managers consider them as a "prep-lite" exercise opportunity.

EMI conducts a monthly series of VTTX using a video teleconference platform to reach audiences around the country and provide a virtual forum for disaster training. The VTTX program even provides the Situation Manual (SitMan) and other documents to support a four-hour tabletop exercise discussing a simulated disaster. The EMI allows up to 15 agencies/organizations to assess their own plans, policies and procedures with an exercise facilitator that the organization provides, then between exercise modules, the participating

groups learn from the other connected sites as they report out on their perspective and solutions for the scenario. A standard VTC system is optimal for participation; however groups have participated through conference call technology. There is no cost for this program, but reservations well ahead of targeted scenarios are recommended due to high demand.

The VTTX is designed for a community-based group of 12 or more whole community representatives from your entity. The goal of the program is to provide a virtual, non-threatening and educational environment to exercise and enhance critical response and recovery tasks.

VTTX Scenarios currently available: Cyber Attacks, Winter Storm, Mass Care, Earthquake, Hurricane, PH incidents, Power Outage, Radiological Incident, Flood, Active Shooter, Chemical HazMat Event, Short and Long Term Recovery. For more information contact Todd Wheeler at Todd.Wheeler@fema.dha.gov or search for the FEMA Emergency Management Institute FY15 Program Bulletin online.

Not One - but Many - for the Books

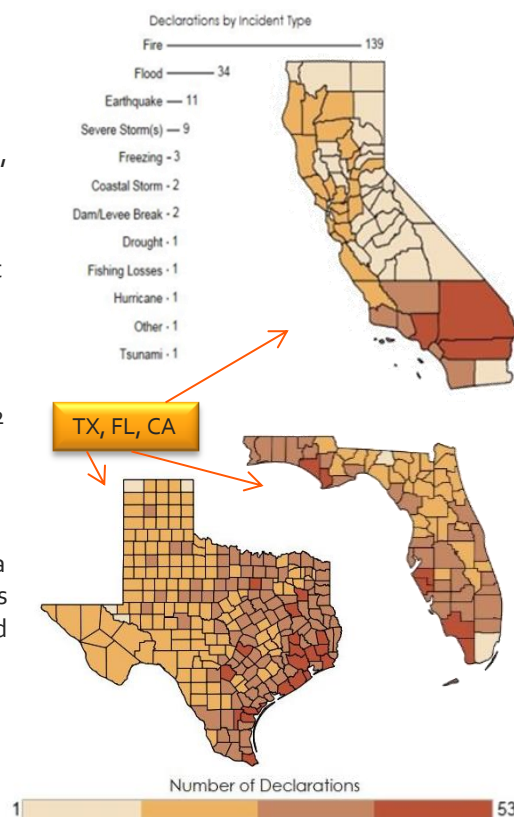
Contact: R. Lindsay

Ever wonder how the San Bernardino County Operational Area stacks up against the rest of the US as far as natural disasters? Just ask County OES. As a part of ongoing disaster preparations, staff collect and analyze activation statistics, local proclamation data and national disaster declaration information. This assists with staffing forecasts and heightened monitoring for the inevitability of EOC activations based on the following:

- Since 1953 the US has had 3,305 Federally Declared Disasters (FDD)

- Since 1953 the number of FDD Storms (845) edged the number of Fires (817)
- TX (246) has had the most FDDs, CA is #2 (205) with FL coming in at #3 (119)
- Fires by far account for the most FDDs in CA, TX and FL
- Of California's 205 Federally Declared Disasters, San Bernardino County (45) ranks #2 behind LA County (53)
- The SBCOA EOC has been activated **83 times** – an average of **seven activations/year** with a total of 27 County Proclamations of Emergency between 2003 and 2014

The OA EOC was activated eight times in 2014 (three fires, two storms and three miscellaneous incidents).



The White House

CONTINUED FROM P1

As one of less than 50 national partners supporting the National Strategy, County OES' National Strategy priority steps include: supporting the implementation of youth preparedness learning programs, creating positive relationships between youth and the first responder community, linking youth preparedness to family and community participation, especially in communities where English may not be the primary household language, and building and strengthening productive partnerships among stakeholder agencies and organizations.

In addition to County OES being recognized, San Bernardino County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) member, Building Resilient Communities (BRC), has also become a recognized affirmer of the National Strategy. BRC President, Debra Williams along with three additional BRC board members also traveled to The White House to be recognized for their new Ark



The White House

of Safety Youth Program. Throughout 2015 County OES will be partnering with BRC and other organizations/agencies located in San Bernardino County to promote Youth Preparedness within the County.

Following the recognition event at The White House the National Strategy affirmers met at The White House to convene for the first time and discuss the nine steps of the program. Cheryl Nagy assisted Karen Marsh, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division Deputy Director, in facilitating a session about the future goals of the National Strategy program.

To learn more about the National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education visit

www.ready.gov/youthpreparedness or contact Cheryl Nagy at Cheryl.nagy@oes.sbcounty.gov.

VOAD

CONTINUED FROM P2

At the meeting a special recognition of service took place for Christine Briggs, Co-Chair and founder of the High Desert COAD. After eight years of VOAD/COAD volunteering, Chris resigned as the SBCVOAD Secretary/Treasurer. Chris will be retiring from her full time position at Desert Communities United Way and resigning from the High Desert COAD to move closer to her family in Central Calif. Ross Sevy, Field Representative for Assemblyman Jay Obernolte presented Chris with a recognition certificate for her many years of service. We will truly miss all that Chris has brought to both the San Bernardino County VOAD and the High Desert COAD.



SBCVOAD Leadership and Ross Sevy, Field Rep for Assemblyman Obernolte congratulating Chris Briggs for her many years of service on the board.

OES Hosts Qinghai Provincial Government Delegation

Contact: C. Nagy

Natural and manmade disasters occur globally, which forced the field of emergency management to be global as well in order to prepare, plan, respond to, recover and mitigate such disasters. In November, San Bernardino County's partnership extended globally with a requested visit by a delegation from the Qinghai Provincial Government in China. A delegation of 12 members and one interpreter headed by Mr. Shide Bai, Deputy Director of Public Security, travelled to the United States for the purpose of learning emergency response and emergency management. They sought out the assistance of San Bernardino County OES to deepen their understanding on:

- The OES mission and function
- CERT program development and response (yes, they know about CERT!)

- Common issues in the field of emergency management
- Emergency response lessons learned and best practices

Qinghai is one of the most earthquake prone provinces in China and at the time they were in the process of revamping their local emergency preparedness plans across all levels to cope with possible natural disasters and terrorist attacks. During the presentation by Cindy Serrano, Assistant Emergency Services Manager, and Cheryl Nagy, Emergency Services Officer, several questions were asked regarding preparedness planning for earthquakes, use of volunteers, and alert/notification systems. It was a great day of sharing, each of us learning from our new friends.

While in the United States, the Qinghai delegation had no plans to visit typical

tourist attractions. They were on a mission to learn about emergency management and take that new knowledge back home. OES was pleased to be a part of their educational journey.



San Bernardino County's First Ever Disaster Recovery Plan

Contact: M. Peren

San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) is coordinating the development of the County's first Disaster Recovery Plan, under the guidance and leadership of Assistant Emergency Services Manager, Cindy Serrano and Emergency Services Officers, Zack Mullennix and Marc Peren. The San Bernardino County Disaster Recovery Plan will be used as a guide to coordinate existing resources and services, identify needed resources and services, and coordinate these activities to more efficiently get communities back on their feet, and rebuild, stronger, smarter and safer.

planning cycle, and is the effort conducted after all of the life-saving operations are over and no immediate threats to public safety are apparent. The Disaster Recovery Plan will be the initial guide for a multi-agency/multi-disciplinary collaboration that would need to work in concert to create the new "normal" after a catastrophe. Recovery planning will streamline processes, connect resources to where they are needed most, and provide a solid foundation to assist in the rebuilding process.

Based on catastrophic events occurring in the United States and globally, it has become evident that a good recovery planning strategy is extremely vital to the

survival of communities devastated by a natural or man-made disaster. Due to the County's geographical size, multi-hazard history, and the varied organizations within its structure (Federal, State, Municipalities, Tribal Nations, Military, Private Sector, and Non-Profits), it is evident that a coordinated Recovery Plan would be a prudent endeavor for the entire County.

With the creation of a City/Town Disaster Recovery Plan Template, the County Disaster Recovery Plan Project will support the Countywide recovery effort after a catastrophic disaster.



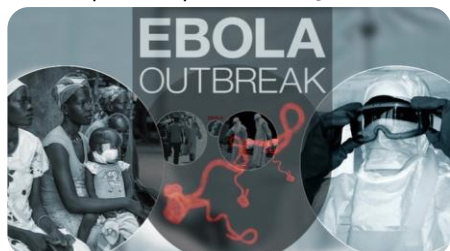
The Recovery Phase is one of five phases of the emergency management

Ebola Preparedness for San Bernardino County

Contact: M. Peren

Late last year and ongoing into this year the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia have tragically been suffering through the largest epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease in history. There were a small number of cases reported in Mali, Nigeria, and a single case reported in Senegal; however, these cases were contained, with no further spread of the disease occurring in these countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on January 21, 2015, a total case number of 21,724 infected and 8,641 deaths.

In the shadow of this tragedy the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health decided to activate its Department Operations Center at a Level 1 to move the County towards planning and preparing for an emergent disease scenario. This activation allowed all of the important players to discuss as a County how we will respond to such a threat to the public's health. Since October of last year, many planning benchmarks have been achieved in order to better prepare San Bernardino County. A regularly scheduled Ebola Preparedness Meeting was established to allow direct planning to occur. A Tabletop Exercise was conducted to explore logistical and procedural obstacles. Lastly, a multidisciplinary committee has been established to develop an Emergent Disease Field Operations Guide, which is expected to be completed by March 2015.



OACC PIO Training

Contact: C. Nagy

At the November Operational Area Coordinating Council (OACC) quarterly meeting County Fire Lead Public Information Officer (PIO), Tracey Martinez, with the help of County OES Emergency Services Officer (ESO), Cheryl Nagy, conducted PIO training and an introduction to the County JIC (Joint Information Center) Plan. JIC Coalition members were also recruited from all County departments and agencies to train and assist within the JIC when a large scale activation occurs.



Through Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds County OES has been able to contract for a repeat of the very successful and sought-after 2-day PIO JIC Workshop that was held last April. The upcoming 2-day PIO JIC Workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held at County OES in Rialto on March 18 & 19, 2015. If you are interested in registering for the workshop or becoming a coalition member please contact Cheryl Nagy at Cheryl.nagy@oes.sbcounty.gov.



Tracey Martinez, County Fire Lead PIO conducting OACC PIO Training

Statewide WebEOC Advisory Committee Vision Realized

Contact: R. Lindsay

On January 13, 2015, County OES initiated a statewide conference call regarding the formation of an Operational Area (OA) led Statewide WebEOC Advisory Committee. The committee membership consists of State and Regional level CalEOC Administrators (the Cal OES name for the state's WebEOC instance), Operational Area WebEOC Administrators and Intermedix representatives. Committee goals include to:

- Establish standardized WebEOC boards for critical information sharing during incidents
- Create a location to share California WebEOC system best practices and boards
- Convene quarterly conference calls on common WebEOC issues
- Provide quarterly information updates to the much larger California WebEOC Community
- To host an Annual California WebEOC Users Conference
- Identify critical processes which will facilitate OA "fusion" with CalEOC in 2015

Currently there are 22 OAs that administer licensed WebEOC programs and 36 OAs that have access to the State's CalEOC program as Sub-Account users.



Weak El Niño or No El Niño? That's Still the Question

Contact: C. Cruz

On Thursday, January 15th approximately (40) representatives from across the county attended the Winter Weather Workshop, facilitated by Alex Tardy, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the San Diego National Weather Service (NWS) office.

Alex's presentation was very enlightening and oftentimes humorous. Alex began with the Drought Story and Impact, noting that the past thirty-six months has been the driest period on record for California. Due to the ongoing historic drought, the fire danger is much above normal across most of California. Currently, state water supply is 35 to 50 percent of capacity (half or about 65% of historical average). California would need

about 150% of average for the rainy season (October to April) in order to significantly reduce the drought.

Alex then moved the discussion from the drought to the overall climate impacts including; record warmth across the state on average of 4° above normal, most of southern California is missing 1 to 2 seasons of precipitation in the past four years.

Then the finale and what everyone was waiting for...Alex's weather prediction and the answer to the question, "Weak El Niño or No El Niño???" The outlook for winter and spring 2015 predicts warmer than normal conditions with periods of precipitation leading to near normal or slightly above normal precipitation for southern California. Fire weather conditions are currently dampened by "green up" from December rains, but will return to severe in late spring due to the four year drought.

Across the equatorial Pacific Ocean average sea surface temperatures, currently neutral, are expected to warm into an El Niño state by early winter. The resultant weather pattern is expected to bring an increased southern storm track

to impact southern California.

Historically, several El Niño winters have brought normal and below normal precipitation. The final word from Alex, "this late winter is characterized as a Weak El Niño"...but only Mother Nature really knows for sure.

Alex also provided several handouts and encouraged the attendees to access the following resources for all your weather needs:

- Mobile NWS: <http://mobile.weather.gov>
- Weather – Ready Nation: www.noaa.gov/wrn
- NWS San Diego All-Hazard Reference Guide



Alex Tardy, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Manager, NOAA - National Weather Service, San Diego

Listos is Gaining Speed

Contact: M.A. Ramirez

The second Listos class conducted in San Bernardino County was held at Sunrise Church in the City of Rialto on November 14 and 15. Listos, which means "ready" in Spanish, is a 12-hour disaster preparedness course created specifically for the Spanish-speaking community and is delivered entirely in Spanish. The program is intended to be adaptable, flexible and culturally relevant. This means participants are encouraged to involve the entire family and accommodations are made for young children. It also means that no meeting is complete without a shared meal. During the recent class volunteer instructors from Fontana and Rialto CERT delivered



this important training to over 120 attendees. Courses in Fontana and Rialto are being formed for 2015 with a goal of conducting at least four trainings throughout the year. For more information on how you can bring Listos to your jurisdiction contact Emergency Services Officer Michael A. Ramirez.

Visit Rialto CERT's Youtube channel to see a video of the Rialto Listos class:

<https://www.youtube.com/RialtoCERT>

Top: course attendee group picture; left: Irma Herrera and Oscar Limon demonstrate how to properly control utilities after an earthquake

Grants Update

Contact: M. Antonucci, E. Sampson, K. Gonzalez, J. Shepard

FY2013 Homeland Security Grant

Program

The first Performance Milestone deadline was due July 31, 2014. All projects must be at least 50% completed. The second Milestone deadline is March 31, 2015. All projects must be completed and final reimbursement requests submitted to the Grants Administration Unit by April 10, 2015.

FY2014 Homeland Security Grant

Program

The first Performance Milestone deadline is July 31, 2015. All projects must be at least 50% completed.

Grants Inventory

All jurisdictions need to continue with the update of their internal records of where all grant funded equipment is located or distributed for federal audit purposes

Grant Compliance

San Bernardino County will be offering (rescheduling) a Single Audit training. The Single Audit applies to non-federal entities who receive more than \$500,000 in federal funds. We as the OA must ensure that local and internal

departments are aware of the laws, regulations, and guidance documents that apply to the grants and therefore have an opportunity to extend an invitation to our subrecipients by allowing one individual per jurisdiction to attend. The information provided in the training is important for grants compliance as listed in the applicant's responsibilities. We will be informing you as soon as the registration opens.

FY2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant

The FY14 EMPG 2nd Quarterly Report was submitted to the State on 1/8/2015. Modifications should be submitted as soon as possible or by April 2nd, 2015, as there will be none for the 4th quarter. Please inform The Grants Unit if you will have any unspent funds to deobligate by 3/30/2015. As of yet we have no indication that the grant will be extended, therefore please anticipate to adhere to the deadlines listed below.

Items	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
Modification Requests	4/2/2015	None Available
Mandatory Quarterly Performance Report	4/2/2015	6/10/2015 with deliverables
Reimbursement Requests	4/2/2015 if applicable	6/10/2015 with deliverables
Deobligate any unspent funds ASAP or by 3/31/2015		
*****Project activity recommended to be completed by 5/31/2015*****		

OES Leadership, Development Continue

Contact: K. Cox

On November 6, 2014, Emergency Services Officer, Zack Mullennix and Administrative Secretary II, Kalina Cox, graduated from the County's Management and Leadership Academy (MLA) – Supervisory track. MLA students gain theoretical and practical knowledge of public service management and leadership practices. In addition to the instructional programs, MLA participants have access to mentoring, job shadowing and special project opportunities designed to help them gain operational insight and experience.



Kalina and Zack at the MLA graduation ceremony

ANNOUNCEMENTS: TRAINING, EXERCISES, EVENTS, ETC.

NAME	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
First Aid/CPR/AED Training (CERT, ECS volunteers only) HTTP://SBCOVOLUNTEERTRAINING.EVENTBRITE.COM/	February 28	08:00 – 17:00	County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
CERT TTT	March 13-15	08:00 – 17:00	County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
PIO Team JIC/JIS Workshop	March 18 & 19	08:00 – 17:00	County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
Countywide CERT Training – Light Search and Rescue Workshop (CERT Instructors Only)	March 28	08:00 – 12:00	TBD
First Aid/CPR/AED Training (CERT, ECS volunteers only) HTTP://SBCOVOLUNTEERTRAINING.EVENTBRITE.COM/	April 11	08:00 – 17:00	County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
Cost Recovery 2-Day Training	April (TBD)	08:00 – 17:00	OES County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
Cost Recovery Training Modules	April (TBD)	(TBD)	Morongo Basin - TBD
First Aid/CPR/AED Training (CERT, ECS volunteers only) HTTP://SBCOVOLUNTEERTRAINING.EVENTBRITE.COM/	April 25	08:00 – 17:00	County OES 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376
Social Media Training	April 29	08:00 – 17:00	HDEOC 15900 Smoke Tree Rd, Hesperia, CA 92345